

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 13. 1711.

I Have been pressing the Nation to open a Trade with *France*; by the Way, pray don't mistake me, I don't mean that we should open or license a Commerce of State with the *French*—— That we should Import the particular Manufactures of their Court; therefore when I am for a free Trade with *France*, I shall move for declaring some particular Goods of that Climate, contraband, and when that's done, we shall Trade the better in the rest.

1. I Bar the Importation of *French* Assassins, that our Counsels may be free from sanctify'd Penknives, and our se-

cret Measures not be remitted to *France*, by Way of Bills of Exchange — I do allow, there have been many brave and experienc'd Officers and Gentlemen, among the *French* Refugees, whose Fidelity has been untainted to the Cause of the Confederates, and who have taught the King of *France* in the Field, that he must pay very dear for the Folly as well as Cruelty, of their Banishment — But we have not been without *Popish* Traytors, who have acted as Spies and Betrayers of our Counsels, under the specious Pretence of Refugees and Revolters — King *William* found a Dangerous Conspiracy

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ey against him, in the first Regiment of *French Horse* that was rais'd here, and was forc'd to some Extremities with them.

Nor has the very Thing itself, Assassination, seem'd to come of late so readily from any Climate, as that of *France*, where we have had a black Account of its Original, in two Designs upon the Person of that Glorious Monarch K. *William*; but of all the Villainous Attempts that I remember to have read of, I have not met with one so Brutal, so without Aim, so merely Barbarous, as this upon Mr. *Harley*.

Indeed, I think, it is an Assassination upon the Queen's Person, and the whole Body of the Counsel, and no doubt, had he had like Opportunity, he would have offer'd the like Villainy to her Majesty's Person, and therefore the Parliament seems to be in the Rights very much, to resent this Act, not as barely an Assault upon the Person of Mr. *Harley*, tho' that had been moving too, but as an Attempt upon the Queen, and an Insult upon the whole Nation.

Every Man that I meet with, however Prejudice and Parties lamentably make us differ, yet I say, every one speaks of this Action with Abhorrence, and had it succeeded, God alone can tell the Confusion, that the Publick Affairs must, for a Time, have fallen into, under the Agitation of so many Contending Parties; but of this by itself.

2. I Bar the Importation of *French-Obsequies*, Men, who Enrag'd that they cannot Embroil the Parties together, as they expected, are setting up to Assassinate not the Queen, but the Nation.

I know it may remain a Question to some, and an Explanation of it may not be unnecessary—*Viz.* Who I mean by these *Obsequies-Men*, and I shall not be backward to be as plain as the Nature of the Thing will admit.

The Original of this Set of Men, at least

under this Name, may be trac'd several Ways; SOME SAY they are call'd so from their Pretensions to a Rustick Gentility, Men of Lands and Country Estates, that having a Substantial Fund, the Original of all Funds, in the *Terra Firma*, live at Home, drink good Country Beer, brew'd in *March*. or rather in *October*, and thence deriving their Name, they appear on all Occasions as a Country Reserve, against the Intrigues of Ministers of State, Court Parties, Factions of Whigs, and the like.

These they say are mighty busie now, Railing at the Proceedings of the *Parliament*, and tell us, that if they were Members, they would do something else, before they gave Supplies; they would Enquire how the last Money was spent before they gave more—If there have been Cheats and Frauds, they care not to be put off with detesting a few small-beer brewers; but they would push at Impeachments of all the Old Ministry, and calling to Account even right or wrong, every one they dislike: They say the Old Ministry either deserve to be Hang'd, or else did not deserve to be turn'd out; they damn the *Examiner* for a Coxcomb, who heaps Crimes upon their Heads, and says nothing of Punishment; they are horridly provok'd at the Duke of M——b for not Resigning his Posts, and say he has a mean Soul; they Affront the Q—n for stooping to Employ him again, and they could Assassinate Mr. *Harley* a second Time as Minister of State, for Advising to put the Army into the same Hands.

'Tis our infinite Happiness, that none of these are *Parliament Men*; for no doubt, had they been in the House, they would have run Things up to a desperate height—They would have retarded every Fund, broke all the Measures for restoring Temper and Moderation among us—As they are therefore but common Men, I shall, in the Course of this Paper, not only detect their Designs, but *À nom de Guerre*, describe their very Persons; that as they were not chosen this Time, so they may never be chosen when we come to a New *Parliament*.

But we have some other Derivations for this sort of Men, and I shall give you the variety; that we may come to as clear a Knowledge of them as possible, for the sake of the Publick Safety — When our first Alarm came Abroad, of a Design of the *French* to bring in the *Pretender* — On the 14th Day of *October*, 1709, There met a certain Set of Men together, whether at the *Vine Tavern* in *Bloomsbury*, *Holborn*, or some where else, History has not determin'd — What Liquor they drank, how Intoxicate, what Quantity they took, whether they paid their Money in *Louis d'Ors*, or *English* Coin; Whether they were *High Flyers*, and met up two pair of Stairs, or Congregated at the *Beer and Beer-House*, where they also drank *October*; these weighty Points Authors differ very much about, nor shall I take upon me to determine.

But that they were in their Meridian as to Number, on the said Famous 14th of *October*, many good Witnesses can attest, besides Sir F. T. Sir J. B. Sir C. D. and Mr. M.

From this true Original of *October-Men*, came the true concerted Measures between the *Jacobites* in *Scotland*, and their Friends in *France* — A certain deputed Number here, Negotiating the whole Affair, *vis* *Dunkirk* — Drawing Bills upon the King of *France*, for 15 Battalions of *French* Wares and Merchandizes; the Bills of Lading run thus, To be Imported Custom-free into *Scotland*, and Landed, the Danger of the Seas and *English* Fleets excepted, in good order and well Condition'd, at the Port of *Leish*, &c.

From that *October Club*, issu'd out sundry Detachments of Clamours against the Government; Rumors of neglect in *Scotland*, of half a Barrel of Powder in *Edinburgh* Castle; of general Revolt in the *Highlands*, and the like, to discourage as much as possible, the Friends of the Government, and Encourage the Enemy.

From that *October Club*, went out a Cry against the Credit, a Run upon the Bank, and a general Noise of the Exchequer being broke, that if possible, the People might be

Brought to be Jealous of the Safety of their Effects in the Hand of the Government, and drawing out of all the Funds, the National Credit might have been entirely Ruin'd.

Famous is this Month of *October* — It was the same Month, and not many Days off from the 14th Day also, the Right Honourable the late Lord M—r, the bright Ornament of the Church, to the Immortal Stagnation of his Honour, gave, after many Applications to him for it, an Invitation to Dr. *Sacheverell*, to Preach that known Oration, before the Lord Mayor and Aldermen at St. Pauls.

On the same very Day Twelve-Month, being also the 14th of *October*, infamous be it's Memory, being the Day of the Election of Members of *Parliament*, for the City of *London* — When Immortal Violence shew'd its Glorious Face, to the Honour of a well govern'd City, and the *October Club* Reign'd Lord and King in the Streets of this free Metropolis — When our Houses were Bombarded by the Hands of the Street-Gentry, our Windows suffer'd a Compound Fracture, that could never be reduc'd to their Primitive State, and not Magistrates but Magistracy itself, suffer'd all the Insolence of an outrageous Mob.

From this Blessed Original, are deduc'd the Names and Titles, by which the new Sons of *October* that I mean are dignify'd and distinguished — Drunkenness and Tumult in Confederacy, have sent them up from their Country Recess, to be their Representatives, not in *Parliament*, for you know I told you before, not one of them are *Parliament Men*, or ever will be again — But as they are Lineally Descended from the *Carlines* of the Times, whose Blood took its Heat from a Conspiracy against the State — So they are the Off-spring of Universal Rabbles, that while the *Parliaments* and the *Ministry* A& in the greatest Harmony, and are Concerning the most Essential Articles of our common Welfare — Such as how to restore Credit, raise Money to carry on the War, and to pay the Nation's Debts; these be Enflaming their Blood with *October Claret*, cursing the Moderation

tion of the Misaffry, and Banning their very Fathers and Mothers, that they are not in Parliament to turn all Things upside down, by Fury and Distraction.

This you may take for a Specimen of the History of my kind of *October-Men*.

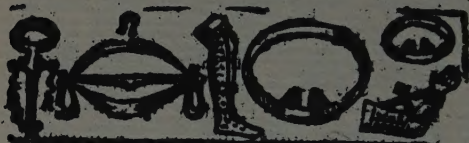
To descend to Characters; Sir *Jeremy Empty* is one of the foremoſt —

A Tory of Noble Extraction, born about the middle of *October* — drew in his firſt Nouriſhment from the Belch-Barrel, and takes in ſtale Stout as Mothers Milk; all the remarkable Occur-

rences of his Life, happen'd to him in *October*; he was born, Baptiz'd, commenc'd Buffoon, came to his Inheritance of Brains, was Jilted, Married, and Cuckolded all in *October* — He turn'd Presbyterian, return'd to the Church, rid upon the Ridge of it, turn'd Low Flyer and Whig, was Converted by a Priſt, of *Bacchus*, got Drunk, killed his Whore, and turn'd Jacobite, all in *October*.

But of his Life and Adventures, more hereafter.

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N. B. For Privacy, he will attend any Gentleman at any Place, near the Places and Hours above-mention'd. Thoſe, who live in the Country, may be ſupplied by ſending Letters.

N. B. His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. *Chriſtopher Baſſett* liveth at his Houſe

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